



Volume Fifteen- Issue Three

Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

March 2024 Wulhixus
"The time when frogs start to sing"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

A letter from Sonia...

At the end of January, I announced that I will be running as the BC Green candidate for Victoria-Beacon Hill. This decision, which we made as a family, comes twelve and a half years after another decision we made, which changed the course of our lives.

In August 2011, our family came up to Shawnigan for our yearly stay at a cabin on the lake – a chance to be close to Blaise's parents, siblings, and extended family. The two weeks at Shawnigan were always a highlight for our family, with milestones marked each summer. Over the years, our kids learned to swim and water ski at Shawnigan Lake – and we enjoyed many family celebrations.

That August, our summer

ended with a job interview at the newly opened Dwight International School, and then a job offer. In the space of a few short and very busy weeks, we found a place for our son in a grade one class at Ecole Mill Bay, a space in Birdsong preschool for our daughter, and we rented out our home in Victoria. The plan was to spend one year as dorm parents at the school, then return to our home and lives in Fairfield.

As the saying goes, the best laid plans often go astray.

We all loved living in Shawnigan Lake and, at the end of our first year, decided to stay longer. The kids were thriving, and we enjoyed making new friends in our new community.

Another life-changing

moment happened 11 years ago this month: the Ministry of Environment issued a draft permit for a five million tonne contaminated landfill at a quarry site Stebbings Road. I couldn't wrap my head around a government choosing to recklessly put a community's drinking water at risk, and I thought that we as a community could convince the provincial government to back away from this decision if we presented them with facts and evidence.

What none of us could have known at the time was that it would take four years of our community's relentless effort to get to that point. Through those years, I learned a lot about how the provincial government makes decisions, including professional reliance which had been recognized as a problematic system prone to conflicts of interest.

Over the course of those four years, I was elected the CVRD representative for Shawnigan Lake and then, in 2017, ran to be MLA for Cowichan Valley. Each of these campaigns

– the campaign to get the permit revoked, and the election campaigns – were intensely focused on community building.

It's been an honour to serve the Shawnigan Lake community, first at the CVRD, and then as MLA. I am proud of what we've accomplished. Purchasing Mt Baldy and protecting it as a CVRD park, building a beautiful pavilion in Elsie Miles Park, the paths and trails that provide safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists, and of course, the cancelling of the permit for the landfill on Stebbings Road. As MLA, I worked to get reform of professional reliance on the agenda and was relieved to see reforms brought forward in the Professional Governance Act, which was passed in 2018. The Cowichan Valley has had historic investments in the last seven years – a new high school and hospital are being built, and the Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan is the first of its kind in BC, leading the way for how we are going to ensure water protection and security in an increasingly unpredictable climate.

As leader of the BC Greens, I've focused

on demonstrating an approach to politics that is more collaborative and less combative, building relationships across jurisdictions and party lines, with the belief that we can find common ground and build from there. I remain committed to the same principles that brought me into politics - that communities should be able to rely on government to protect what is necessary for all of us to be well: clean water, air, and soil. I also remain committed to our health care system being there when we need it, to a thriving public education system, and to a social safety net that helps lift all our communities up.

The endings of chapters always bring some sadness, and my heart can feel heavy as we begin to plan our return to Victoria after all these years, but as our children move into their next chapters – attending UVic or starting a family – it makes sense for our family to move back. Shawnigan has changed our lives for the better, and I am grateful for the time we've spent here, and for the honour of representing this community and the Cowichan Valley.



Arbutus Ridge by E.J. Hughes

Robert Amos
Artist and Author

In the summer of 1993, during his last on-site sketching season, artist E. J. Hughes added to his repertoire of images a view of Arbutus Ridge. Located just north of Mill Bay, Arbutus Ridge is a self-described "age-qualified gated community for active adults" which was developed on a 60-hectare (150-acre) site on a ridge overlooking Satellite Channel. It was the first comprehensive retirement community created in Canada, and includes an eighteen-hole golf course.

In her notes about this image, Pat Salmon reported that "it was unusual for Hughes to sit and sketch

in such a public place. The sketch took almost three days and one day he arrived early at the course, but not early enough, for another car was parked in his spot. He patiently waited several hours until the owner arrived and drove off. Then Hughes quietly slipped his car into the empty space and resumed sketching. He did not consider his time waiting to be a waste, as he was able to view his subject matter more fully."

On this and other occasions, he was content to sit in his car - at that time a *Jaguar Vanden Plas* sedan - and sketch. He didn't even mind if it came on to rain. No matter what the weather, or time of day, Hughes drew what was be-

fore him. Clouds passed, and the sun rose and set and he drew on. Unlike Impressionist paintings, the resulting images have a sense of permanence and solidity which is unique to Hughes's style. Later, in his studio, he brought to the painting the light and colours of the mood he wanted to convey. Hughes's drawing of Arbutus Ridge begins at the edge of the parking lot. The foreground is given over to the margin of the roadway, with undistinguished bits of vegetation growing on the barren ground, sprinkled with precisely-drawn pebbles. This leads to the first and only golf course which appeared in a Hughes artwork. With a sharp pencil, Hughes included at least

ten players and a golf cart. Beyond the roofs of the residences in the distance a ferry boat leaving Swartz Bay en route to Vancouver is making its way past Salt Spring Island.

As the years went on, Pat Salmon often took Hughes out for a drive from his home in Duncan to visit some of his favor-

ite sketching sites and to enjoy a meal in one of the many restaurants in the area. In her diary entry for Friday, September 27, 1996 she reports: "I met Ed at Arbutus Ridge at 5:30 on the dot and we had a nice meal. I had the fish soup, a small house salad and chicken fingers, and Ed had a club sandwich and wine."



on-site drawing of Arbutus Ridge by E. J. Hughes (1993)

Shawnigan Focus

Salmon Survey in the Shawnigan Creek Watershed

Bernhard H.J. Juurlink
Vice President,
Shawnigan Basin Society

The only salmon species native to the Shawnigan Creek watershed is the *Kokanee*, a landlocked form of Sockeye salmon. Because Coho salmon were in decline at Goldstream River in the 1970s, Goldstream Coho were brought to Lower Shawnigan Creek, starting in 1978, to determine the suitability of this watershed for Coho

salmon. The watershed was ideal for Coho habitat but, upon returning from the sea, the Coho encountered the problem of five impassible waterfalls near the lower end of the creek. Volunteers from what is now the Mill Bay and District Conservation Society caught the returning Coho at the Creek's mouth and carried them to the creek above the waterfalls. Volunteers have been transferring increasing numbers of returning

Coho – see graph.

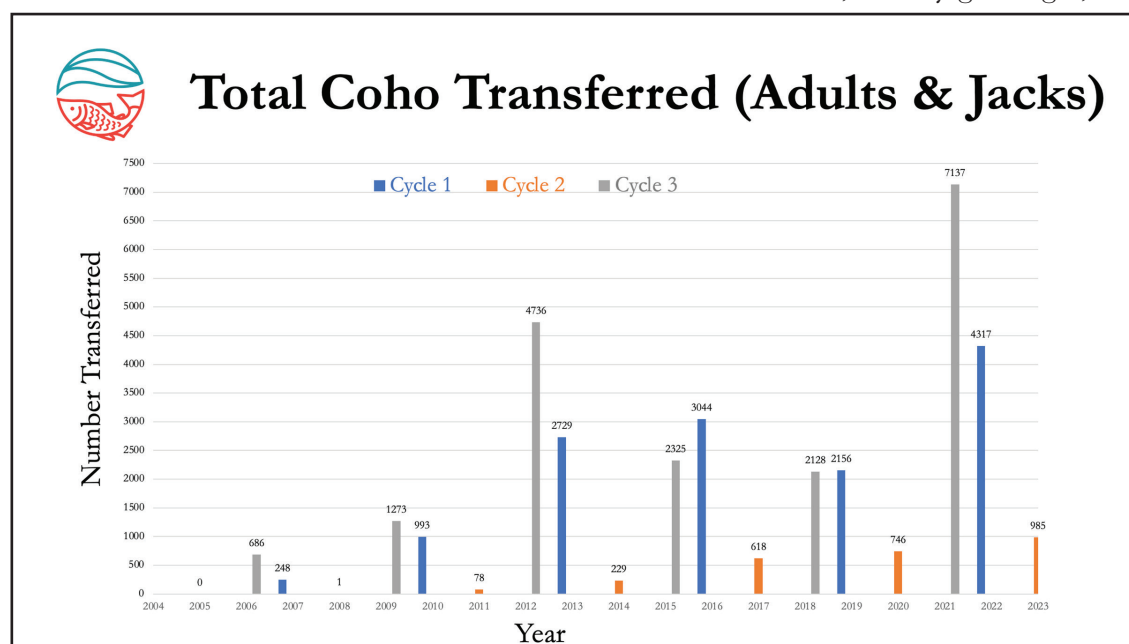
Coho salmon spawn during October and November, creating gravel beds (redds) where the eggs are laid and fertilized. The embryos develop and hatch as alevins in February/March. Alevins stay in the gravel of the redds and rely on nutrient stores in their very visible yolk sacs. By April the yolk is used up and the fry emerge from the redds to eat insects and plankton and, as they get larger,

they can eat small fish. In the following winter, fry develop into smolts that are becoming adapted for salt water. Most of the smolts swim to the sea during February/March of the following year, with a few stragglers not leaving till May. A few male Coho return that fall as Jacks but most Coho spend at least one winter at sea before returning as three-year-old adults. A few Coho spend two winters at sea before returning to spawn. Coho typically have a three-year lifecycle and the graph illustrates the Coho transferred since 2004, based on a three-year cycle.

Other than Lower Shawnigan Creek and its tributaries we do not have a good idea where Coho spawn and develop in the watershed. We have observed Coho fry in a Taylor Park creek and, hence, some Coho must enter the lake and spawn in streams entering the lake. We also do not have a good idea where

the Kokanee spawn. Their anadromous cousins, the Sockeye, spawn anywhere from early summer to early fall, depending upon the region. This year we have observed Kokanee fry in early February in a small stream near the Government Wharf, suggesting that our Kokanee likely spawn during the summer.

The Shawnigan Basin Society is looking for volunteers to help determine where Coho and Kokanee salmon spawn and develop in the streams that enter Shawnigan Lake. The main streams of interest are Upper Shawnigan Creek, especially in the vicinity of the lake, McGee Creek and West Arm Creek and its tributaries. However, observations of smaller streams would also be much appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering, or have information on salmon spawning and developing in the Shawnigan Lake watershed, please contact: admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org



South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

South Cowichan Library
250-743-5436

southcowichan@virl.bc.ca
www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

Mbira Spirit live at the library! Celebrate spring with us as Amy and Tafadzwa share the music of the mbira of Zimbabwe. Free, and all of the community is welcome! 3-4pm on Saturday, Mar 16

Spring Break, Mar 11-22: drop in to check out a Take & Make craft kit, scavenger hunt, and the hanging balance game of Suspend!

Tues, Mar 19, 5-6pm on Zoom: Sign up to watch a local author reading of *Otter Doesn't Know*, a Coast Salish children's story!

Learning with Syeyutsus Speaker Series continues with presentations every other Wednesday, noon to 1pm. You can register online to watch from work or home or you can call or visit the branch to sign up to watch in the library!

Mar 6: Dr. Sarah Marie Wiebe, "You are treaty, too: Revisiting Chief Spence's call to action and the Idle No More Movement through community-engaged research"

Mar 27: Christopher Teuton, "Cherokee Earth Dwellers: Stories and Teachings of the Natural World"

The Inspired by Reading Book Club meets on Tuesday, Mar 12, 6:30-8pm, to talk about *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. This is for anyone interested in reading and sharing inspiring conversation. The book club is run by the Cowichan South Arts Guild; meetings are welcoming and an accepting environment for all.

LEGO® Club happens every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.

Tech Help is available most Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Drop-in or make an appointment for one-on-one help with your mobile device or laptop.

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open:

10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday

10am - 5pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

Thank you to all of our advertisers for supporting this local publication! We couldn't do it without your help...

The Focus team encourages community members to submit editorial content, including letters; articles of local interest, bouquets you would like to offer to people; things that strike you as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals or groups.

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After 40 years of supporting local children, youth, and adults living with disabilities, Easter Seals British Columbia/Yukon is going to rebuild Camp Shawnigan. The new Camp Shawnigan represents a bold new vision that will meet the escalating needs for inclusive and accessible spaces for our clients, while also filling the unmet needs for recreational facilities across the region.

We are dedicated to ensuring the redevelopment of Camp Shawnigan creates an inclusive community recreation hub for everyone, and we invite you to join us for some two-way dialogue.



You'll have the opportunity to:

- Learn more about the vision and proposed project
- Ask questions and provide feedback
- Understand the benefits to the community and the region
- Meet the staff and community members behind the project

EVENT DETAILS

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
2804 Shawnigan Lake Rd
Friday, March 8, 4 PM–7 PM
Saturday, March 9, 10 AM–3 PM



E & N Plan?

Ion Barnes
Comment

Much as I would appreciate the E&N to be in service, I am discouraged by the flowers and fairy dust that contributes nothing towards an actual plan to restore the railway to a useful transportation link. Where is the plan? Considerations:

- The billion-dollar question is, “Is it time, and is the E & N corridor the place to resurrect Vancouver Island’s long-defunct rail service?” Options? It is time! Why wait till it costs more?
- Will the infrastructure continue to rot away before historical landholders seek reversion? A popular theme these days, but is it realistic? More harm than good. Could landholders become benefactors to the use of the rail line?
- A plan B? A multi-use transportation road base that could be used as a walk/



bike trail and even support an emergency bypass route, in the event of a constriction on the Malahat route. This is an option that holds the most value. Why has this not received more attention?

My understanding is that the route has to be redefined with proper railway terminals, if we are to consider, even if the primary use is a freight route. Marshalling yards for railway cars suited to Sea Containers and bypass points for route stops — would eliminate a majority of heavy truck usage on the highway, once the distributors at destination points become familiar with the rail terminals. The overpasses may have to be raised, and additional overpasses incorporated to eliminate the impatient drivers who still want to challenge an approaching train for the right-of- way.

As for a passenger service, there would need to be several trains commuting at any one time to make a passenger service to be practical. Maybe not in the beginning, but if the service is well received, that would be an option.

Transportation on Vancouver Island

Warren Skaalrud
Comment

Vancouver Island has been subject to highway closures on the single set of highways (shown in black) that interconnect communities from North to South and West to East. The patchwork of transportation planning throughout the 7 regional districts and 13 municipalities on the island, and the continued reliance on private high-cost bus services, as an alternative to auto-mode use, has repeatedly failed island residents. BC Transit provides meager and unreliable service between cities, and nothing north of Parksville, or to Port Alberni, leaving residents with little confidence in using alternatives. This lack of reliable transit pushes them to the only reliable option remaining — owning and operating their own personal road-based vehicles.

That reliance on auto-modes of transit is choking up our highways during



morning and evening commutes. With a population that is expanding faster than other areas in Canada, and expected to reach 1 million by 2030, and with over 5 million overnight visitors during tourist season contributing to congestion, Vancouver Island needs to think about alternatives and regulatory changes to ensure that we have the capacity, redundancy, affordability, and resiliency to support our population and growing economy estimated at over \$37

billion in 2024. A mostly unused railway exists, that links every major city and town between Courtenay and Port Alberni through Parksville, Nanaimo, Duncan, Langford and Victoria and could provide a road separated right-of-way to establish a desirable and highly reliable way to create an integrated multimodal network of transit on Vancouver Island that includes Trains, buses, and trails with additional economic benefits of moving freight by rail.



St. John’s Academy Spotlight
Shawnigan Lake



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GIRLS’ PROGRAM LAUNCH AND PILOT YEAR: 2024-2025

Welcome to St. John’s Football Academy for girls and boys. Our goal is to provide world-class learning and character development through education and soccer, and to help youth reach their highest potential as athletes, students and citizens. We are happy to announce that in September 2024 Football Academy will include a girls’ program.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

JAMAR DIXON
ACADEMY DIRECTOR

Jamar.Dixon@stjohnsacademy.ca
FootballAcademy@stjohnsacademy.ca
Ph. (250) 857-6556

KIMBERLY EDGSON
SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE
Kimberly.Edgson@stjohnsacademy.ca
FootballAcademy@stjohnsacademy.ca
Ph. (672) 974-1234

www.stjohnsacademy.ca



Shawnigan Weather - February 2024

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network and Weather Underground
Reported by Grant Treloar



	February Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Average High	7.8	7.4	5.9	8.4	6.6	8.6	6.9	8.6	6.9	8.3	6.6
Average Low	0.4	1.8	0.0	0.8	-1.1	1.7	-0.2	2.0	0.2	1.6	-0.3
Extreme High	18.3	10.9	10.2	12.3	10.7	12.3	11.5	12.0	11.1	11.9	10.9
Extreme Low	-16.7	-2.8	-8.6	-2.3	-10.4	-2.3	-8.8	-2.2	-9.2	-2.4	-9.3
Precipitation	134.7	177.3	159.1	144.2	135.8	144.2	221.4	143.7	116.1	152.4	158.1
Days w precip	16	21	22	22	22	22	24	18	20	21	22
Year Precip	350.0	472.0	302.8	381.3	266.2	381.3	221.4	380.6	220.9	403.8	252.8
Precip since Oct 1	884.7	1148.3	828.4	1025.9	769.3	1012.3	626.2	891.7	625.1	1019.6	712.3
Rank since 1914: 26 th warmest, 41 st driest											
Lake Temperature		Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25						
		5°	5°	4°	5°						
Lake level change		-16.5cm	+19cm	-18cm	-8cm						
Surface Elevation		116.96m	116.65m	116.48m	116.39						

February 2024 was warmer and slightly wetter than normal. Average temperature for the month was about a degree above the average since 1914. It was drier than average up until the 29th, then, on the last day of the month, there was almost 70mm of rain, making it the wettest day since December 4, 2023.

The only really sunny day was on the 4th; there were only 8 days in the month when there was no precipitation.

On the 15th there was about 5 cm of snow, and then spotty snow flurries towards the end of the month, but with no real accumulation. Warmest day was the 23rd and the coldest was on the 27th. There were 9 days with freezing temperatures.

2024 has so far been slightly warmer and wetter than the annual long time normals.

Royal Canadian Legion Malahat Branch 134

Gloria Solley

Question - Have you noticed the little green house with the big L.E.D. sign, next door to the Fire Station on Shawnigan Mill Bay Road?

This little house has been home to the Malahat Legion since 1934 – 90 years, altogether.

As our 90th anniversary is coming up this April, we will be hosting a special celebration on April 12th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. at the Legion, 1625 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Dress is business casual and members are encouraged to wear their Legion uniform. Admission is free, and there

will be a cash bar. Music is by Copper Canyon starting at 6:30 pm. There will be assorted Sandwiches, Finger Food, Dessert (anniversary Cake). Tea and Coffee will be served.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the bar for anybody wishing to attend. Or you can register on our website.

The Malahat Legion Branch 134 is a recognized community-oriented Legion honouring Service Men and Women. During all these years, the Malahat Legion has been an integral part of the Shawnigan Lake community, supporting not only our veterans and their families but also our schools,

non-profit organizations, and has arranged special events that have become a mainstay every year. Regular meetings are held each month.

We thank you for your support of our **Poppy Campaign** held every year which supports our veterans and their families.

Besides our November 11th Remembrance Days' Ceremonies, our little Legion is the only Legion, in Canada, to host a Special Service to honour Canadian service men and women who have lost their lives on Canadian soil keeping our nation safe.

Money is raised every Saturday at our weekly

meat draw. And where does all this money go? Right back into our community! Local non-profit charities must apply in writing for a donation, stating why and where the money will be spent. The Gaming Committee, the Executive and then the General Membership must approve their application.

We have also joined up with several local non-profits. Young Seniors Action Group (Y.S.A.G.), Malahat Lions' Club are both located in our building and have activities for seniors, and a quilting group that has joined forces with the "Quilts of Valour" supporting injured Canadian Armed Forces



members past and present.

The Malahat Legion has many volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts for the Legion, but a few go over and above to help others in the community. Our Executive this year includes Isabelle Hammer (President), Bob Cleroux (Vice President), Virginia Bauder (Treasurer), Wanda Wetteland (Secretary), and they are joined by ten other executive members and of course all the countless volunteers who keep our Legion going strong.

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Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Grant Treloar
Volunteer
museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com

People of this Place –
Dick Hopps

Everyone talks about the weather, so goes the saying. But we generally can't do anything about it.

Richard Hopps, a local resident, has been doing something about the weather for a long time. Back in the early 1960s Richard worked for Denis Mason-Hurley, the owner of the Shawnigan Beach Hotel (now the site of the Shawnigan Resort). He began his association with the hotel by working with Ozzie Hollings (a well-known name in the area) to build a dock for Mason-Hurley. Richard ended up with a job that summer and continued to work there.

Shortly after Richard began at the hotel, Mason-Hurley passed the job of tracking weather to Richard. Weather records had been kept on the site, since the 1920s. The history before that is hazy, but there is meticulous daily weather data for Shawnigan Lake that goes back to 1914.

There was rarely a time when any daily recordings were missed. When the new hotel owner took over in 1966, Richard continued to work for a while, but then left over a "little disagreement". He moved the weather station over to the property he had moved to with his family, near Elford Road. He became the "Official Weather Recorder" in 1970.

I asked him if he had always been interested in the weather. "I'm not really into the weather — I just did it. To begin with, the

information would be mailed but for quite a few years now it's been on the computer."

Sometimes he would get friends or neighbours to step in when he was not available, but that didn't happen very often. There were never automatic recording instruments. Everything was observed and recorded by hand.

The time that Richard spent on recording and sending the data to Environment Canada over the past add up to 10s of thousands of hours....all for a small honourarium. Last fall, Richard (in his 96th year) decided that it was time to retire...so the daily recording stopped on November 3rd, 2023.

Environment Canada officials picked up the instruments, but left the aging Stevenson Screen that had housed those data recorders. Richard decided that rather than take it to the dump, maybe the Museum would be interested in it... which they agreed to. Richard also donated a box of years of handwritten records and anecdotes — which is a meticulous historical treasure.

I asked him if he knew what was going to happen to the official Shawnigan Lake Environment Canada Station for recording the weather. His answer: "I'm sure they were disappointed in this. Losing this." And he's not sure of any decisions they have for the future.

While we ponder about what might happen next, we should be very, very thankful to Richard for his dedication in providing such a valuable service for a very long time.

You may have noticed the



Focus monthly weather report for Shawnigan has slighted changed. We can no longer provide the "official" Shawnigan Station info — it's now an average for the other "unofficial" spots in the area.

Who knows, maybe someone will step up and follow in Richard's footsteps, huge as they are.....

If you're interested in seeing the "official" daily data for Shawnigan going back to 1911, just go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/Shawnigan-Station>

2nd Annual
Storytelling Event

Mark your calendars!
Friday, March 22nd 7-9pm & Saturday, March 23rd 1-2pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

The 2nd Annual Art of Storytelling is a co-production by the Cowichan South Arts Guild and Shawnigan Lake Museum. This was a very successful and inspirational event last year, attended by a very appreciative audience!

Friday night offers presentations from adults and youth. Saturday is oriented for children. If you are interested in participating as a storyteller, for either event, please send your info to Jennie and Lori at hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com before February 29th. A limited number of storytellers will be chosen for each day, but this event will grow over the next few years to create more opportunities.

You don't want to miss this event!



Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

Phone: (250)743-2096 Non-emergency: (250) 812-8030 shawniganfire@shaw.ca

December 2023 Report

Department Members Attended 33 Incidents in February

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thursday, Feb 1 - 1st Responder off Elford RdFriday, Feb 2 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake RdMonday, Feb 5 - 1st Responder off Heald RdTuesday, Feb 6 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake RdWednesday, Feb 7 - 1st Responder off Elford RdWednesday, Feb 7 – Alarms Activated on Butler AveThursday, Feb 8 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Friday, Feb 9 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake RdFriday, Feb 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake RdSaturday, Feb 10 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake RdSunday, Feb 11 - 1st Responder off Ravenhill RdMonday, Feb 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay RdTuesday, Feb 13 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake RdTuesday, Feb 13 – Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">off Shawnigan-Mill Bay RdTuesday, Feb 13 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake RdThursday, Feb 15 - 1st Responder off Renfrew RdSunday, Feb 18 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake RdTuesday, Feb 20 – MVI on S Shawnigan Lake RdWednesday, Feb 21 - 1st Responder off Heald RdFriday, Feb 23 - 1st Responder off Renfrew RdFriday, Feb 23 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake RdSaturday, Feb 24 - 1st Responder off Colman RdSunday, Feb 25 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake RdSunday, Feb 25 – Hydro Lines on Cliffside RdSunday, Feb 25 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew RdMonday, Feb 26 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake RdMonday, Feb 26 - 1st Responder off Treit RdMonday, Feb 26 - 1st Responder off Elford RdTuesday, Feb 27 – Assistance on Renfrew RdTuesday, Feb 27 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake RdTuesday, Feb 27 – MVI on Renfrew RdWednesday, Feb 28 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake RdThursday, Feb 29 - 1st Responder off Campbell Rd |
|---|--|---|

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- CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca
- Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
https://www.cprd.ca/list.aspx# (sign up for meeting notifications)
- CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
LegislativeServices@cprd.bc.ca
- Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Contact us for information about hours and/or group visits.
Contact: *museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com* (web): *shawniganlakemuseum.com*
- Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: (web): *www.thesra.ca*
- Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: *bburr@shaw.ca*
- Shawnigan Basin Society**
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: *info@shawniganbasinsociety.org*
- Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: *ysagssl@gmail.com* (web): *blog.ysag.ca*
- South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222(web): *southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca*
- Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: *rc134@shaw.ca* 250-643-4621
- Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG)**
Contact: *hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com* (web): *cowichansouthartsguild.com*
- Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake Eco Club**
Meeting Info & Contact: *ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca*
- Malahat Lions Club**
Contact: 250-743-0569

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

MALAHAT LIONS
Volunteers Needed
Welcoming New Members

Join us on the 1ST & 3RD Thursday of every month.
Meetings held @ the Malahat Legion
LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT : (250) 743-0569

Volunteering makes you feel GOOD!

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www.mrjrealty.ca

Did you know?
we offer
CYCLE FIT CLASSES

Cycle Fit (also known as indoor cycling or spinning) is a group fitness class focusing on endurance and strength with a mix of intervals, high intensity and recovery.

DAY	TIME
MONDAY	8AM, 9AM, 5:15PM
TUESDAY	9AM
WEDNESDAY	6AM, 9AM, 6:15PM
THURSDAY	9AM
FRIDAY	9AM
SATURDAY	9AM

VALLEY HEALTH and FITNESS
Call (250) 743-0511
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What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is It?



One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees.

Thanks to Shawnigan House Coffee for their support!

Cheap Ad Rates!!
Contact Kim:
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Congratulations to Heather Plumb
who was chosen from the correct answers to last month's photo of the Crossing Sign on the E&N Railway between Thrush Road & Norbury Road.

Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub

Kim Barnard
Founder-President-
StoryGatherer

Today I took a leap and asked the free version of ChatGPT 3.5 to describe the amazing power and potential of a seed. As it turns out, an inanimate database can generate more food for thought than I could possibly include here!

“A seed is a marvel of nature, a tiny package filled with the incredible potential for life. Within its small shell lies the blueprint for an entire organism, waiting to unfold under the right conditions... (Seeds) represent new beginnings, growth, and potential... inspire hope, resilience, and the promise of a brighter future... the resilience and creativity of life itself, shaping ecosystems, sustaining livelihoods, and enriching the world in countless ways.”

For me, seeds represent ideas. They come in all sizes, and some are so deeply buried that you have to listen carefully, ask clarifying questions, and water with plenty of encouragement! Our Feb. 10th Volunteer gathering did just that, with heartfelt thanks to all who participated. We offer “100 Acts of Kindness” available for download at our website under Upcoming Events. Every act of caring grows connections! What will you “plant” this year?



In our service to Shawnigan Lake as Canada's first Rotary EcoClub, we hope to help grow our collective impact on reducing litter in our community, and to promote tended spaces with corridors for native plants and pollinator-friendly gardening. At the same time, we encourage conversations and collaborations that bring even more beneficial ideas to life.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20th from 10am-2pm for this year's **Shawnigan Community Clean Up Day**. We're so grateful for our participants, sponsors, community and industry partners that make this event possible. Full event details can be found on our website, including ways to Adopt-an-Area year-round. Let's spread seeds of gratitude for this beautiful place we share!

www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca

A Must See Performance: Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

St John's Academy proudly presents Mary Poppins Jr! Based on the award-winning Broadway musical and classic Walt Disney film, the everyone's favourite zany nanny takes audiences on a Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious adventure! This will be our second, annual school musical and we're excited. The cast of 40+ students from grades four through 12 brings this magical tale to life. It's the perfect show for audiences of all ages. And, everyone's favorite practically perfect nanny takes the stage in this Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious musical adventure. This show features memorable songs from the film that we all know well.

It will be held once again at the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre in Duncan over a total of three performances: April 19th at 7PM, and two on April 20th at 2PM and 7PM.

This promises to be an entertaining outing. Led by Kayla Dangerfield, the production director, and with the music direction by Tristan Clausen, both with St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake, in collaboration with Bonnie Cuthbertson with LT Dance Studio who is providing choreography support.

Last year, we were thrilled to see so many familiar faces from the community attend to support our students during our Frozen production. Over 800 tickets were sold, and this year we hope to sell-out! We hope that we'll see you there again this year to support the students' efforts. To buy tickets please visit: www.cowichanpac.ca

Shawnigan Lake



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31ST - Noon to 3

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

'FAMILY FUN' ACTIVITIES BEGIN @ NOON

INFLATABLE • SCAVENGER HUNT

GAMES • CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING • SNACKS

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INDOOR & OUTDOOR FUN - DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

DRAWS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS FOR FOOD BANK ENCOURAGED

All Are Welcome!

Watch our website for more information :

www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

Sponsored by the SLCA - Shawnigan Lake Community Association



With the support of the Province of British Columbia



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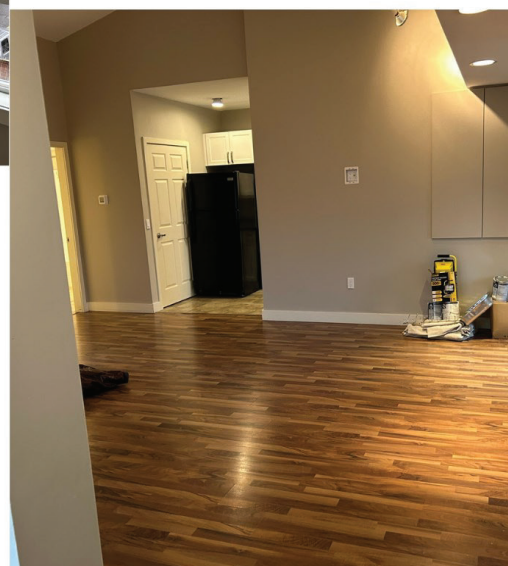
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